A

RÆSENT

FOR

CÆSAR;

Thomas Bradley

D. D. and Minister

at *Nettlebed* in

the County of

Oxford.

---

e unto Cæsar *the things that*

are Cæsars. *Luke* 20. 25.

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BODLEIANA
OXFORD

To his Highneſs the Lord Protector of the Commonwealth of England, Scotland, and Ireland, with the Dominions thereunto belonging, &c.

y Lord,

T is not my buſineſs, nor inten-
tion in this Paper-præſent, to ſet
out all Cæſars dues, or duties;
as a Subject under your High-
government, and a friend and

servant to the Commonweal
whereof I am a Member, to do m
own. It is a buſineſſe concern
which I have formerly acquaint
your Highnes with ſome things in t
Col. Goffe, Lieut. Col. Worſley, and Mr. Scobel clark of the Council. generall; and ſince that, ſome othe
appointed by your Highneſs to ta
the cogniſance of it in particular
and it is at this preſent before t
Commiſſioners for diſcoveries
VVorceſter-houſe: But as t
preſence of the Sun obſcures all oth
leſſer lights, and makes them bur
more dimly, ſo the aſſembling of t
preſent Parliament doth in a man
ner ſuſpend and ſuperſede all vig
rous actings of derivative and inf
our powers; And therefore I ha
made bold to make this addreſs i
mediatly unto your ſelf, and to pr
ſent unto your Highneſs own ha
and view, in ſhort, and yet in f
too, the whole ſubſtance of the matt
with the grounds and reaſons of i
ſho

shewing the legality, equity, justice, and necessity of it, that you may at your leasure deliberately consider of it, and the more confidently resolve what to do in it. It is the unhappiness of great Princes, that they must see with other mens eyes, and hear with other mens ears; In this I desire your own may be Judges. And now, my Lord, I shall humbly crave your favourable protection in the offer of this proposal, and the further pursute of it, if any further pursute b made in it: For although it speaks[c] nothing but Law and Reason, Equity and Antiquity, yet what entertainment it may probably meet with when it comes abroad, both the title and the subject of it may promise and presage, even such as all subjects of this nature do usually find, to be unwelcom, yet truly there are none of those that are most concern'd in it, but upon conference, when they have

rightly understood my mind in it, and their own Case, they have gone away well satisfied; but, my Lord, they will be better satisfied, if in consideration of those great sums your Highness is to receive out of the Church-revenues, so freely and so firmly by law conferr'd upon you, your Highness will be pleased to protect them in all the rest, and to settle upon the Church, and confirm unto it her antient portion and patrimony, the Tithes, & to put them into a better capacity of demanding and receiving them, than now they are in, when men will pay them but what they list, and if they do but demand their dues of them in a legal way, presently they are threatned with ejectment, which (as things now stand with them) is no hard matter to compass, considering the many pins upon which their standing doth depend, and the world of exceptions, which

which the Commissions, Proclamations, Orders, and Ordinances made concerning them (if stretch'd upon the tenters, to the extremity of them, and acted upon with rigour) make them liable unto; besides, many of those which are their Judges in these cases being of different judgements from them in matters of Religion, and ways of worship, and directly principled, not only against their persons, but even against their very callings and the payment of Tithes, out of which their livelihood, and your Highnesses revenue should arise, the continuance whereof is the only way of perpetuating the Ministry, in the Church; and which once taken away, it will inevitably follow, that in short space the Ministry will be utterly ruined and rooted out of the Church of England, and that once down, all other Ordinances fall with it, which

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it is your highest honour to protect, and to uphold; but leaving these matters to your Higness wisedom and care, with the contribution of my prayers to the great God of Heaven and Earth, the high dispoof all things, for his blessed protection, direction, and assistance, to be ever present with you in all your Great, Noble, High, Wise, and Religious Undertakings, I passe to the businesse intended, and subscribe as above,

Your Highnesses and the
Commonwealths, to
serve you in all
good ways,

Thomas Bradley.

A PRÆSENT FOR CÆSAR.

THere is no man that looks upon this Commonwealth, and conſiders it in the poſture that now it ſtands, but he will confeſſe that it would

would require even the golden mines of *Peru* to defray the charge of it, and to carry on the buſineſſes in which it is engag'd; hence it is that the ſupream Magiſtrate, upon whoſe ſhoulders the government of it lies, is forc'd to raiſe vaſt ſums of money by ſuch ways & means as reaſon of ſtate puts him upon, (as by contribution, excize, decimation, and the like) for the managing of them, which lie heavy upon the people, and

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are resented as grievous burdens: for let reason of State speak what it will, and necessity be never so pressing, men are not willing to part with their money, tis ease and freedom from burthens that they look for, which when they sensibly feel, then they will sit down satisfied and contentedly acquiesce in their condition. What was it that kept the 10 tribes so close to *Jeroboam*, and his successors, after the

the rent from *Judah*, that through the reign of 18 Kings they kept conſtant to them, and never returned again, But that he did that which *Rehoboam* ſhould have done, and which the people ſued for, and the grave Counſellers adviſed him to, in making their yoaks eaſier, and their burdens lighter? The neareſt way for us to do ſo too, is to alter the chargeable poſture that we now ſtand in, if with honour, juſtice,

I mean not as to the form of it, but as to the charge of it.

stice, and safety, that may be done: but if that cannot be, the next way is to supply it with treasure, by such ways and means as are most clear and smooth, and least liable to exceptions; and what more clear than what Law hath determined? what more just than for a man to demand his own? what more equal than for men to pay their debts which they owe? tis not a curtesie, but a duty, not a gratuity, but the pay-

payment of a just and due debt, *To render unto* Cæsar *the things that are* Cæsars. And such is that which here I offer, which if it may be managed by such hands as I have ready to commend, of men of known worth and integrity, fidelity and ability to undertake, and to perform it, It shall bring in to the Treasury for the Præsent 100000 l. and to the Revenue 50000 l. yearly, and clearly, without any charge to the

State

State in the gathering of it, or trouble, or just cause of grievance to any other that are most concern'd in it, whose good is principally aim'd at in this design, which is as followeth.

I Doe propose, that the Statute of the 26. of *Henry* the 8th. and of the first of Qu. *Eliz.* for payment of first-fruits, and tenths, may be put into due execution, which require that

they be paid in to the true value of them, and not as they ſtand partially rated in the late Kings books, by an antient inquiry made above 100 years ſince, which gives them not in to the 5th. nor to the 6th. nor ſcarce to the 8th. part of the true value of them, throughout the land.

Some reasons shewing the reasonablenes, equity, justice, and seasonablenesse of this Demand.

FIrst it is legal that they should be so paid, the Statute is clear, and peremptory for it as above, the 26. of *Hen:* the 8. and the 1. or Qu: *Eliz.* 1

2 Secondly, And that Statute made in a free & full Parliament, where the Biſhops chiefly concern'd in it, as Lords Spiritual (ſo called) ſate in the upper Houſe, in great power, and with them in that Parliament ſix and twenty Abbots, which (together) with the Biſhops, were able to have carried a Vote againſt the Lords temporal, which in thoſe days were not ſo numerous. And be-

besides these a full Convocation of the Clergy sitting, and unanimously assenting to it,

Thirdly, And this 3
Act so considerable, that three of the greatest Officers in the land, The Lord Chancellor, the Lord chief Baron, and the Master of the Rolls, are thereby required to make Inquiry from time to time, by all the ways and means they can in their discretiõ devise, to find out the true

values of them, that ſo the firſt-fruits and tenths may be paid in accordingly. And againſt thoſe would I have put in my information in the Committee for diſcoveries, if my Council had not otherwiſe perſwaded and overruled me.

4 Fourthly, There is good Bond for it, which every Incumbent (at his entrance into his living) enters into the firſt-fruits Office, called the *Melius In-*

Inquirendum, the Condition whereof runs as followeth.

THe Condition of this Obligation is ſuch, that if the Rectory of A. *in the County of* B. *be hereafter proved to be of more yearly value than ten pounds, then if* C. D. *Incumbent there, do anſwer the Keepers of the Li-*

berties of England accordingly within one moneth after Certificate of due proof thereof had, and delivered unto him, without fraud or further delay, then this presents Obligation to be void and of none effect, or else to stand and remain in full force and vertue.

I Have taken ſome pains, and been at ſome coſt in this Inquiry, and I find this ten pound, commonly to be an hundred, ſeldom leſs than fourſcore; as for inſtances, the Rectory of *Alsford* in *Hampſhire*, ſtands in the late Kings Books at 29*l.* and ſome odd ſhillings: I have known this Rectory to be let at 450 *l.* *communibus annis*, and beſides the * incumbent reſerving to himſelf the houſe,

* Dr. Heylinge.

house, with the accommodatious about it, with some glebe land, and other advantages, to the value of 30l. a year, and upward. I could multiply instances of this kind, if it were necessary.

5 Fifthly, We may better now afford to doe it than heretofore, inasmuch as we are freed from many other burdens, and yearely payments which formerly we stood charged

ed withall (as Synodals, and procurations) and good reaſon for it; for the duties upon which they were charg'd being laid down, which were the calling of Synods, and viſitations of the Churches, which were to be done at the charge of the Miniſtry, it will follow rationally, that the charge, occaſioned by theſe duties, ſhould die with them, as alſo the contributions uſually given to the Biſhops at their first

Procurabit Hoſpitia, & Synodalia.

first entrance upon their Sees by way of gratuity.

6 Sixthly, It was not so long since it was questioned, and that in Parliament too, whether any tithes should be paid at all, and shall it now be questioned, whether these dues shall be paid out of them to his Highness which the Law requires?

7 Seventhly, VVhat more usual with Christian

ian Kings and Commonwealths than in great exigencies of affairs, as in their chargeable wars, &c. to supply their wants out of the Revenues of the Church, by receiving sometimes a tenth, sometimes a fifteenth part throughout their Dominions, and that where they have no such Law for it as we have, but only *ragione del Stato*, as the *Italian* speaks?

Eightly, If you look upon

upon the Preface that ushered in this Act when it was firſt made, in the 26. of *Hen.* 8. you ſhall find it ſpeaks as ſtrongly for his Highneſs, and the preſent affairs of the Commonwealth now, and they do as neceſſarily require it, as then they did.

9 Ninthly, Doe the great affairs of the Commonwealth force his Highneſs to raiſe ſuch great ſummes of money for the managing

of

of them, by ſuch ways and means as reaſon of ſtate puts him upon, as by contribution, decimation, exciſe, and the like; and is it fit that ſuch ſums as theſe are, which are clearly due by Law, ſhould lie aſleep, and be wav'd the while?

Tenthly, Let noe man think it ſtrange, that the *melius Inquirendum* ſhould be now ſet on foot: The Lord Treaſurer *Buckhurſt* was

ſetting

setting it on foot in his time, as his Secretary *Gurney* told me about eight and twenty years agoe, at my return out of *Spain*, where I had been with the Lord *Cottington*, Embassadour extraordinary, upon the treaty of the peace between the two Kingdoms, then and there honourably concluded, ever since which time I have had it by me.

11 Eleventhly, I offered to set it on foot in the late

late Kings time, and for that purpoſe acquainted the Archbiſhop of *Canterbury* with it, but he kept it off, and charged me upon my Canonical obedience I ſhould not ſtir in it, neither did I while I owed him any.

Twelfthly, and mainly, even thoſe which are moſt concerned in it, and may pretend to have greateſt cauſe to except againſt it, ſhall receive advan- 12

tage by it; It is the only way to ſettle them in their tithes, and to confirm them upon them, and to engage his Highneſs to protect them in the poſſeſſion and enjoyment of them, which before, and as yet doe ſtand but upon tottering terms; moſt of the Counties in *England* having petitioned againſt them; let them pay their dues, and they may with the better confidence demand and require them: But in the mean

mean time, while they pay their dues to his Highness in such an inconsiderable proportion, what if the Parishioner should take the advantage of it to pay his tithes by the same proportion; and being required to pay them to the full value, shall answer, that he pays his tithes in to the Incumbent, after the same proportion, that the Incumbent pays them in to his Highness and the Commonwealth, both

being equally due? How this will stand good in Law I know not; but I am sure it is good in equity.

Lastly, were the revenues yet left unto the Church distributed in any indifferent or reasonable proportion, with due respect had to the different worth, gifts, and parts, of those that are imployed in the glorious work of the Ministry, and the different Congregations under their

their ſeveral charges, there is yet left means abundantly ſufficient for the maintenance and encouragement of an able Miniſtrie throughout the land, cheerfully paying out of it his Highneſſes dues too, which the Law requires in teſtimony of their thankfullneſſe to him for protecting them in all the reſt. For beſides all the defalcations and deductions that have been made out of it, both in the time of

Hen. the 8. and of the late Parliament, there is yet left unto it full half a million a year, and if course were taken, that this might be prudently proportioned, so as the greater livings might help the lesser, there would be found abundantly sufficient for both; and so all the revenues of the first-fruits Office, would come in clearly unto his Highness, which now goes all out in augmentations, and doth not serve

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the turn neither; And if all the revenues of the Church will not now be sufficient for the maintaining of the Ministry, now they are all set a part, and appropriated to that use, how did it serve the turn antiently, when they had scarce a fourth part of it, the other three being distributed to other uses? for if you look back into antiquity, you shall find, that primitively these revenues were not shar'd amongst the

Clergy *parochiatim*, by Pariſh-meal, as now, it was many hundred years ſince Chriſt, before the Land was ſo divided, and cantoniz'd into Pariſhes; but all the tithes and oblations, and other revenues of the Church were put into ſeveral Church Treaſuries, in every Dioceſe one, thoſe treaſuries committed to the care and truſt of faithfull and prudent men, by whom they were to be diſtributed to pious and charitable

charitable uſes, as need did require; thoſe men by whom they were to be thus diſtributed, were the Deacons, according to the primitive inſtitution, *Act.* 6. Thoſe uſes unto which they were diſtributed, were principally theſe four. Firſt for the maintenance of the Miniſtry. Secondly, for the relief of the poor. Thirdly, for the building and repairing of Churches, and Religious houſes. And 4thly, for the redemption

demption of Chriſtian Captives, the relief of perſecuted Chriſtians, and the like, ſo that of all theſe revenues there was not above a 4th. part fell to their ſhare; nor that neither, but with theſe 2 limitations:

1 Firſt, if they had no other competent means of their own to live upon; for if they had, then by the antient Canons, they were to receive no diſtribution out of the Church Revenue; but were to preach the Gol-

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pel freely. *Qui bonis Parentum ſuſtentari poſſunt Clerici, ſi quod pauperum eſt accipiunt, ſacrilegium committunt;* Clerks or Clergy men which may be ſuſtained by the goods of their Parents, or (as I conceive he means) by maintenance left them by their Parents, if they take any thing of the poors patrimony, they commit ſacrilege; and what they meant by the poors patrimony, appears by the ſame father in another place.

Hieron. cap. Clericos, 1, & 2.

place. *Quicquid possidet Ecclesia, vel in fundis, vel in pecunia, pauperum est patrimonium*; Whatsoever the Church possesseth, either in lands, or in money, it is the patrimony of the poor, they only had the honour and the trust of the distributing of it, or overseeing the distributing of it by the Deacons, in which regard most properly they were *Episcopi*, which signifieth overseers; And good reason that themselves, and the rest of

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the Clergy having not otherwise wherewith to sustain themselves, should be supplied out of the treasury; And so they were, but (which was the second limitation) that so sparingly, and so frugally, that there should be no allowance for any vain, or unnecessary expences, much less for purchasing of lands and houses, for raising of families to greatness, least of all for Princely pomp, and state; for what the

pomp

Concil. Aquil.

pomp & state of Bishops was in those days, appears by that modest Canon made in the antient Council of *Aquileia*, in these words* *Episcopus non procul ab Ecclesia habeat hospitiolum, vilem mensam, & supellectilem*; Let the Bishop have near unto the Church a little house or Hospital, and in it a mean table, with mean houshould-stuff. That grave Council, even by the Spirit of prophesie foreseeing, and prudently endeavouring

* The motto of my house at Nerd bod.

vouring to prevent that which after followed in the Princely pomp of Prelates.

Wherefore these things duly cosidered, I hope no man will be offended at me for what I here offer and present; but rather that I shall deserve thanks from all parties concern'd in it respectively; from his Highness for endeavouring the augmentation of his Treasury, and the increase of his Revenue,

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in a legal way, whereby he may be the better inabled to defray the charge, and to carry on the great busineſſes of the Commonwealth, committed to his care and truſt; from the Commonwealth, whoſe affairs ſhall by this means be the better adminiſtred, and they in due time eas'd from other burdens, now lying upon them; and from my brethren in the Miniſtry, whoſe portion and patrimony ſhall by this means

means be setled and confirmed upon them, and his Highness ingaged to protect them in the enjoyment of them, together with his own intereſt, and in all other their antient duties and immunities, now miserably invaded. In three words, Me thinks it should be satisfactory to all, that there is nothing here proposed but what there is Law for, what there is reason for, and what there is bond for. If his Higness will

be pleaſed to remit all theſe his dues now he knows them, he ſhall therein do a very noble, and gracious Act, and I ſhall have my ſhare in the benefit of it; but if (the exigencies of the time ſo requiring) he ſhal be pleaſed to demand them, we have no more reaſon to be offended with him for taking his own, than the people have to be offended with us for taking ours. The way for us to improve this payment

ment to our own advantage, is to doe it freely, and cheerfully, and out of our ſence of the preſſing neceſsities of the time, and our thankfulneſs to his Highneſs for our protection in them, to offer it up to him as a free-will offering; though there were no Law at all to require it. Were the Clergy of thoſe times ſo ſenſible of the great burthens of the Commonwealth, and ſo thankfull to the King for his care and pains in

managing the affairs of it in troubleſome times, as to make ſuch a Law when there was none, and ſhall we be ſo inſenſible of the greater burdens of the preſent times, or ſo unthankfull to the ſupreme Magiſtrate, upon whoſe ſhoulders the weight of them lies more heavy than ever it did upon that King, as not to obſerve it now it is made? ſurely, as the Clergy of thoſe times did ſhew their ſenſe of

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the one, and their thankfullneſs to the other, in their free offer of this their aſsiſtance, in making ſuch a Law; ſo the Miniſtry of theſe times will be much more forward to doe their parts to aſsiſt, enable, and encourage the Magiſtrate in his government by keeping it, and every one to put to his little finger, to the eaſing of him of the heavy burthen of it lying upon his ſhoulders; ſo as I truſt I may general-

ly in the name of them all, as well as of my ſelf, tender this preſent unto him as to our Patron, Protector and Benefactor. And although that ſervant which doth no more than his duty cannot plead merit, nor challenge any extraordinary reward; yet upon this our readineſs and cheerfullneſs in the performance of it, we may undoubtedly promiſe unto our ſelves from his Highneſs ſuch Acts of grace, in reference to our cal-

calling, and protection in the exercise of it, in reference to our maintenance by tithes, and that competent and certain, and in some indifferent manner proportiond unto us, & of our restauration to all other privileges, immunities & exemptions belonging to us, as may abundantly recompence the cost of our obedience in this matter. In order to all these things, and of settling all things into a tight posture, concerning the

Miniſtry, there was a paper drawn up with a great deal of care, pains, ſtudy, and circumſpection, and offered to the late Parliament, though their multiplicity of buſineſs would not permit them to peruſe and to conſider of it within the time limited; which although it were preſented by inconſiderable hands, Mr. *Bakers* and my own, yet there were other hands and heads uſed in the compoſing and peruſing of it,

it much more conſide-
rable; which if his
Highneſſes greater buſi-
neſſes would but permit
him to peruſe, or this
preſent Parliament now
conven'd to conſider of,
or to appoint ſome grave
Committee to take
the cognizance of it, it
would be found to be
of ſpecial uſe unto them,
and to give them much
light and many hints as
to this buſineſs, not to
be deſpiſed, in which
we ſhall be ready at all
times to ſerve them
with

with our beſt endeavours, if it be required.

In which (as alſo in any thing elſe that I have written, as touching the ſetling of Miniſters in their dues, and their payment of their dues, I humbly crave to be candidly interpreted on both hands, my intentions in reference to both, being honeſt, juſt, and good, that *Cæſar* may have his due, and that they that pay it may have theirs too, with an earneſt deſire and hope,

that

that as they are to pay with one hand, so they may receive with the other; that in consideration of these great sums by their own voluntary Act, so clearly coming to the publike treasury, for the publike good, some Act of Grace may be past for them, or something done in favour of them, which may so ballance the payment of it, as that they may resent it, not as a burthen, but a benefit, not as a damage; but

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an advantage; if it ſhall pleaſe his Highneſs as freely to remit the payment unto them, as they did at firſt grant it unto him, and ſo engage the Pulpit to him that way, what is that to me? why ſhould my eye be evil becauſe his is good? he ſhall therein do an act both of bounty and policy; but what will the reſt of the Commonwealth think the while, when (reaſon of State and neceſsity ſo requiring) he

ſhall raiſe ſuch great ſums of money from them by all the ways and means he can rationally and prudentially deviſe, and in the mean time gratifie theſe with ſuch great ſums of his own, ſo clearly by Law and reaſon due unto him? may his Highneſs be pleaſed but to take his own dues of them, and to grant them theirs in their antient portion, and patrimony, with all thoſe privileges, immunities & exemptions

emptions, in which the Law hath indulg'd them, custom confirm'd them, and all the Kings of this Nation, not only since the conquest, but since the first reformation have protected them in, his Highness dues may be paid, his treasuries supplyed, the Common-wealth eased in good part in some other burdens, and in all this they no losers but gainers by the bargain.

FINIS.